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REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Ryan F. Pitaro and Examiner Kristine Kincaid for the interview of November 30, 2004.

The present amendment replies to a Non-Final Office Action dated October 6, 2004. Claims 1-36 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4-7, 9-13, 16-19, 21-25, 28-31 and 33-36 have been amended herein. The amendments to the claims have not been made to avoid any reference, and instead, the claims have been amended to expedite prosecution.

The term "interactively" in the amended claims was suggested by both Examiners Kincaid and Pitaro as a term to further clarify the claims. The interactive nature of the claimed invention is discussed at page 10, lines 7-10 of the specification in which the boot server interactively receives administrator input. The term "graphical user interface" is also used to further clarify the claims and is supported at page 1, lines 10-16 of the specification and from page 20, line 1 onwards. No new matter has been added with the amendment.

In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Pitaro rejected pending claims 1-36 on various grounds. The Applicants respond to each ground of rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112:

A. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 112 for insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 7 rather than claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is now in condition for allowance.

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B. Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 13-15, 17, 23, 25-27, 29 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki*

Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 13-15, 17, 23, 25-27, 29 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki*. These rejections are traversed. Claims 1, 5, 11, 13, 17, 23, 25, 29 and 35 have been amended to further clarify the invention as discussed with the Examiner in the interview of November 30, 2004. Claims 2-3, 14-15 and 26-27 are dependent directly or indirectly on amended independent claims 1, 13 and 25, respectively, and include the limitations of their respective independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no express motivation in *Nakadai* to combine with *Kozaki*. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that *Kozaki* teaches processing boot requests on "a first-in-first-served basis" (column 4, line 7), which teaches away from the interactive method of the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

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C. Claims 4, 16, and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,225 to *Suffin*

Claims 4, 16, and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,225 to *Suffin*. These rejections are traversed. Claims 4, 16 and 28 have been amended to further clarify the invention as discussed with the Examiner in the interview of November 30, 2004. Claims 4, 16 and 28 are dependent directly or indirectly on amended independent claims 1, 13 and 25, respectively, and include the limitations of their respective independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no express motivation in *Nakadai* to combine with *Kozaki* or *Suffin*. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that *Suffin* teaches a boot list of paired devices (column 6, lines 30-onward), which teaches away from a boot state difference list comparing the current state of a target device to the expected state of the same target device as claimed by the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

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D. Claims 6-8, 10, 12, 18-20, 22, 24, 30-32, 34 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,888 to *Sakanishi*.

Claims 6-8, 10, 12, 18-20, 22, 24, 30-32, 34 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,888 to *Sakanishi*. These rejections are traversed. Claims 6-7, 10, 12, 18-19, 22, 24, 30-31, 34, 36 have been amended to further clarify the invention as discussed with the Examiner in the interview of November 30, 2004. Claims 6-8, 10, 12; claims 18-20, 22, 24; and claims 30-32, 34 and 36 are dependent directly or indirectly on amended independent claims 1, 13 and 25, respectively, and include the limitations of their respective independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no express motivation in *Nakadai* to combine with *Kozaki* or *Sakanishi*. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

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E. Claims 9, 21 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,888 to *Sakanishi* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,225 to *Suffin*

Claims 9, 21 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,031 to *Nakadai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,888 to *Kozaki* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,888 to *Sakanishi* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,225 to *Suffin*. These rejections are traversed. Claims 9, 21, 33 have been amended to further clarify the invention as discussed with the Examiner in the interview of November 30, 2004. Claims 9, 21, 33 are dependent directly or indirectly on amended independent claims 1, 13 and 25, respectively, and include the limitations of their respective independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no express motivation in *Nakadai* to combine with *Kozaki*, *Sakanishi* or *Suffin*. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

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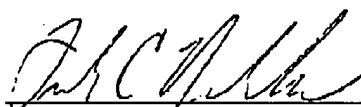
CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-36 as listed herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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